

DECLASSIFIED

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1953

Ed Korry of the UP came to see me this morning. He is an ~~an~~ intelligent man and, having righted the administrative disequilibrium of the UP office in Paris, ~~is~~ is once again applying himself to reporting work. He believes the EDC will be passed by the French Parliament in the early spring. In his opinion the success of the debate this week will depend almost entirely on Bidault's personal attitude and conduct of it. If Bidault has decided to be "the great European" he will be willing to take chances that none of the other political leaders seem ^{prone} ~~not to~~ to accept at this time. Since most of them are potential candidates for the presidency, they would prefer not to be put sharply on record, before a President of the Republic is elected, on such a contentious question as German rearmament. The showdown will come, at the conclusion of the debate, over the form of resolution to be passed by the Assembly. The ex-Gaullists, as participants in the Government, will want a resolution which does not endorse EDC; the Socialists, on the contrary, like the MRP, will favor a strong resolution. If the Government wishes to preserve, which it naturally would, the present party coalition, it is likely to yield at least in some measure to the importunities of the ex-Gaullists. If the Government refuses to compromise in this manner, it will have to rely upon the votes of the majority of the Socialist Party, which is not represented in the Cabinet. Many delicate problems of internal politics are posed by this situation.

I talked to Jim Conant on the telephone this morning and arranged for Stan Cleveland to go to Bonn and talk with Ophuls about certain features of the Saar negotiations. The Germans have long proceeded on an assumption that our people believe erroneously that the dollar exchange derived from the French Treasury from Saar trade is on net balance far higher than is indeed the case. Tommy is thoroughly familiar with this subject but unfortunately is ill in bed so Stan will explain it to the Germans.

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Tonight E. and I went to dine with Pascal and André Dewavrin.. A while ago, through an almost unprecedented stroke of luck, they were entreated to take a beautiful apartment on Boulevard Malsherbes by a direct descendent of the founder of the Tiffany firm in New York who is the owner of the building in which this ~~very~~ fine flat is located. The former owner, who recently died in her eighties, was a passionate collector of butterflies and amassed some 70,000 of these creatures, valued at several million dollars and displayed in a museum in the same building. The other guests were Pierre Lazareff of Paris-Presse, Madame Emile Roche, Madame Arpels, Monsieur Levy, Monsieur Horst, Chaban-Delmas and his wife. After dinner Jean Jacques Servan-Schreiber came in with ~~very~~ attractive Françoise Giroux. Talk on the European Army raged until long after midnight. Chaban Delmas has gathered together the various Gaullist elements in the Assembly and thinks he is on the verge of welding them ~~into a coherent~~ into some coherent party form. Everyone there except Madame Roche (whose husband's book on Morocco I greatly enjoyed) seemed to be an ardent opponent of EDC. Chaban-Delmas, who is full of wit and agreeability, did most of the talking. He was closely associated with Bidault during the resistance period and says ~~that~~ Bidault is determined to bring the EDC to a vote as quickly as possible but has no real heart for supranational European political authorities.

I was, with great politeness, left out of the conversation, because of the known views of the United States Government on the subject, but I found it ~~very~~ interesting to follow since these men and women represent quite a diversity of French opinion. On one point, however, they were all agreed. France has been obstructive and dilatory in ^{not} voting either for or against the EDC and has lost much prestige as a consequence. They all said they would like it passed upon by the Assembly as soon as practicable, which they thought would be about the

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first of March. Chaban-Delmas believed ~~that~~ it would be defeated at that time and ~~that~~ the French Parliament would then favor the admission of Germany into NATO with certain conditions specifying control over its use of armaments.

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